

The Influence of NLP Meta and Milton Model on Public Speaking: A Study of Dr. Zakir Naik's Public Engagements

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the influence of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) language patterns (Metamodel / Milton Model) on the public speaking of Dr. Zakir Naik, a modern Muslim intellectual and public speaker. Based on a qualitative content analysis of handpicked speeches, debates and Q&A sessions, researchers attempt to detect, tabulate and typologize occurrences of those NLP patterns to grasp their rhetorical and communicative features. The analysis shows that Dr. Naik makes extensive use of Metamodel patterns to elaborate ambiguity, dispute vagueness, and foster semantic agreement as well as the Milton Model to maintain rapport, facilitate interpretation and handle audience resistance, particularly in emotionally and ideologically loaded discourse. The results indicate the robustness of these types of linguistic strategies to aid in comprehension, reduce cognitive load and enhance engagement and persuasion to a range of inter-faith audiences. Through the use of NLP methodologies on the realm of religious talk, my work fills in this gap while showing the potential for linguistic modelling in the area of public religious communication. The findings have implications for public address scholars, as well as educators, communicators, and inter-religious dialogists.

Keywords: Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), NLP Metamodel, NLP Milton model, Public Speaking, Dr. Zakir Naik, Religious Communication

INTRODUCTION

Public speaking is one of the most effective ways to change people's thinking, bend public opinion, and convey belief systems, especially in areas such as religion, politics, education, social reform, and philosophical knowledge. It's no secret that throughout the ages, rabble have roused, factions have healed, and sophisticated ideologies have been passed along by charismatic individuals who draw popular sentiment into the complex ideas. A visionary leader is, quite simply, one who has a clear and compelling vision and is able to communicate it so there are no doubts or questions about what is being asked of people. There is considerable value as well for those who need to communicate orally in a wide range of public arenas, because Powerful presenters don't just regurgitate information, they develop language in such a way that what they say is comprehensible, has emotional resonance, and includes intellectual persuasion (Murali, 2023).

In the information age, where audiences are bombarded with multiple versions of the truth at all times, framing the discourse effectively is more important than ever. In this context, Neuro-Linguistic

Programming (NLP) is based on a deep set of assumptions around how language influences thought and behavior. NLP, which emerged in the 1970s, by Richard Bandler and John Grinder, is predicated on the idea that language reflects internal cognitive processes, and provides practical tools that can be used to improve how people communicate with others (Gran, 2021). Two of the most important linguistic models for NLP, the metamodel and the Milton model, have opposite yet complementary functions. The NLP Metamodel is a system of language patterns and types of questioning for uncovering imprecise, distorted, or deleted language. Through challenging the generalities, the deletions, and the distortions the Metamodel sharpens focus and encourages depth. In oratory, it enables speakers to qualify their language, writing, so to speak, a way to forestall possible misinterpretations and to deal with ambiguities head on—issues of credibility, to wit, born and bred (Bandler, 2020).

Alternatively, the Milton Model uses linguistic vagueness to bypass resistance and allow for persuasion. Based on the work of psychiatrist Milton Erickson's conversational hypnosis, it uses ambiguous language patterns to invite the listener to infer personal experience-based meaning and imbue their communication collaboratively in harmonious rapport. Whereas the Metamodel aims at specificity, the Milton Model uses strategic vagueness to steer listeners into agreement without arousing cognitive defences.

In this paper, we explore how both these models fared over real-world oratory of Dr. Zakir Naik, a respected Islamic scholar and an orator who has earned international repute for his rational argumentation, comparative study of religions and structured style of debates. A medical doctor, Dr. Naik has delivered over 4,000 lectures worldwide on comparative religion, drawing from the holy scriptures of the major religions, including the Quran, the Bible, and the Veda, to explain and prove the truth of Islam. As such he extensively cites chapter and verse, employs scientific analogies and is proficient in multiple languages (including English, Arabic, Urdu) and so is very well received by a range of audiences (Javed, 2024).

A particularly salient rhetorical feature of Dr Naik's style is his combination of logical precision, empirical evidence and specificity and coordinated response to controversial theological issues. In an environment so frequently filled with rhetoric, appeals to sentiment and absolutes, his use of evidence-based argumentation and reliance on empirical evidence, such as text, are more than a little reminiscent of the NLP core material Metamodel. In live Q&A sessions, for example, Dr. Naik hones in on vague or emotionally charged questions by asking for underlying assumptions, challenging generalizations or asking for clarification—an obvious instance of metamodel questioning (Mandavilli, 2023).

Moreover, Dr. Naik's unique capability to debate with even hostile or sceptical audiences, including atheists, and people of other faiths, hints to the use of Milton Model patterns implicitly, especially in subtle conversational reformatting techniques; rapport building, presenting topics to minimize resistance. His codifications of the teachings of Islam are a model of precision impact, logic with emotion and doctrine with dialogue—factors for consideration of the manifest application of NLP in religious public speaking (Alkhodari & Habil, 2021).

While NLP, as a subject matter, has been extensively treated in such domains, as psychotherapy, sales or coaching, its systematic use with the field of religious or interfaith discourse has not been employed within the academical community. This paper aims to close that gap by exploring the nature of his speeches, and showing how they are intended as practical applications of the Metamodel and Milton Model to improve the clarity and impact of his messages, increase the listener's engagement with the speaker, and make his persuasive tactics more effective.

This paper opened with three main aims for our research, three principles upon which the analysis and interpretation are based. Its first goal was to determine and index the use of NLP Metamodel and Milton Model language patterns in public speaking of Dr. Zakir Naik. These are in a variety of settings, from formal lectures to inter-religious debates to unscheduled Q & A. By tracing-out particular linguistic constructions employed by Dr. Naik, the paper aims to reveal traces of repetition of qualities of clarity, precision, vagueness and suggestion which are crucial to the double functioning of NLP-based communication.

Second, the analysis aimed to critically examine how these linguistic patterns work with his rhetoric style. These include exploration of the functional profile of these language models when addressing intricate or contentious issues, handling resistance from critical or opposing interlocutors, and strengthening the coherence of his case through logical argumentation. In conducting this analysis, the research considered the ways in which the Metamodel fosters linguistic congruity, and the Milton Model, persuasion, rapport, and affective response to establish them as a hybrid model for effective religious communication.

Third, this study seeks to consider the possible extended implications of the application of NLP-informed linguistic strategies within religious public address. Because interfaith dialogue is playing an increasing role in our culture and religious language is the home of our deepest and the most sensitive beliefs, the research also evaluates the extent to which, and the conditions under which, the disciplined use of linguistic patterns contribute to perspectival respect, cognitive clear-headedness, and persuasive, non-coercive communication. This aim also underscores how NLP could be used as a technology to improve not just the studies in rhetoric but also to cut down on intercultural and interreligious separatism in multicultural societies as well.

Within the context of these goals, this paper addressed two main questions in the research. The first one to what extent does Dr. Zakir Naik employ NLP Meta and Milton model language patterns in his talks? This question is related to determining whether certain linguistic structures are present in the two models and at what frequency. The second question says what role do NLP Meta and Milton model language patterns play in shaping the clarity, coherence, logical reasoning, emotional influence and reception of Naik's discourse to develop a nuanced understanding of the linguistic processes that contour Dr. Naik's persuasive prowess.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction to NLP and the Metamodel

Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) was invented in the 1970 mids by Richard Bandler, a philosopher and computer scientist, and John Grinder, a linguist (Abraham & Therese, 2024). Their partnership arose out of a curiosity of how some therapists, specifically Fritz Perls (Gestalt therapy), Virginia Satir (family therapy), and Milton Erickson (hypnotherapy) seemed to be able to reliably produce extraordinary results with clients. Bandler and Grinder wanted to replicate how these successful therapists communicated and thought, so they could "code" their methods into recipes that others could learn and "run." It gradually developed into a larger paradigm for personal development, and improving one's performance, and communication; over the years its range of influence began to affect areas such as education, coaching, business, and public speaking.

The essence of NLP is that language is a mirror of the internal mental structures and that by becoming aware of and modifying these structures one can alter one's thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. NLP is built on a set of core linguistic concepts; one of these is the metamodel, presented by Bandler and Grinder in their groundbreaking 1975 book *The Structure of Magic* (Khan & Sadiq, 2023). The NLP metamodel is a collection of language patterns and questioning patterns with the aim of recognizing and

challenging vague, distorted, or generalized expressions in communication. It helps speakers and listeners to disambiguate meanings, to unearth assumptions, and to render lines of reasoning more explicit. Using this approach, communicators can improve interpretation, eliminate ambiguity and direct dialogue to be more accurate and more profound.

The metamodel works on the basis of three main types of distortion in language such as deletion, distortion and generalization. Deletion consists writing about something in the abstract without mentioning specific details of it, which can be confusing or ambiguous, for example, you say "They don't care" without specifying who "they" might be. Distortion comes in when people get distorted pictures of reality, such as imagining what someone else is thinking or feeling with no evidence for that assumption ("He hates me"). Generalization consists of taking one experience or belief and extending it to many (Nagarajan, 2021). The metamodel has specific structured questions to challenge each of these deletions such as "Who specifically?", "How do you know?", and "Always?"

First formulated in therapeutic settings, the NLP metamodel was quickly recognized as being beneficial in many types of one-to-one communication (Rayati, 2021). In psychotherapy, it was useful to help frame limiting beliefs and help the client reframes things differently. In coaching and education, it also facilitated more accurate questioning and accordingly deeper engagement. It was used in sales and negotiation to help elicit what the client needs and to handle objections. More recently, the use of the metamodel for public speaking has been raised, and speakers using metamodeling concepts are now able to craft communications in a way that is logic based and emotions based. They are designed to elicit specificity and clarity, and to enable speakers to engage the audience more effectively, especially when speakers are explaining complex or sensitive issues.

Introduction to the NLP Milton Model

Milton Model is a hearty contender for mind and emotions control through language, based on the hypnotherapy techniques of Erickson (Kovalevska, 2020). Originally developed for therapeutic situations, the Milton Model has been applied in various settings, including coaching, sales, teaching, and public speaking, to increase audience engagement and rapport through the use of conversational and persuasive language.

Based on the idea that language can influence internal states of mind, the Milton Model uses ambiguous and suggestive language patterns to influence listeners' perceptions and drives. While the NLP Metamodel brings clarity to vague language, the Milton Model uses artful vagueness, patterns that are purposefully indefinite so the mind does fill in the gaps, the empty spaces with the content, to induce a trance state, to create agreement, and to seed suggestions (Fleming, 2016). Originating from the work of Milton Erickson, Ericksonian hypnotherapy uses indirect, permissive forms of hypnosis that enabled the subject to understand the suggestions in personally meaningful ways by pacing and leading, presuppositions and embedded commands. Pacing is mirroring the audience's present reality to establish a foundation of trust, and leading gently toward a new vantage point. For instance, a speaker could say "as you listen carefully, you start to notice the truth in this view," which temporally paces the action of listening and ultimately leads to adoption of the view.

A product that was originally created to be used in Hypnotherapy, the Milton Model can be applied across individual and group communication scenarios. For coaching, it helps establish a rapport and motivate the clients by being in their shoes. In sales, this makes the act of persuasion much easier to achieve, by inserting ideas that will appeal to the prospect. In public speaking, the model allows speakers to develop an emotional message that will engage an audience's interest and sway them in a right direction. For example, a speaker could slow down the pace to recognize doubts and make a sudden increase in pace to strengthen an argument in a dramatic way, an observation consistent with Zakir

Naik's way of appealing to multireligious crowd (ISLAM & USHAMA, 2022). By building rapport and limiting resistance, the Milton model balances the Metamodel's certainty, so here we have an equilibrium for effective communication.

NLP in Public Speaking and Communication

Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) has become increasingly popular as a model for improved communication, especially in professions which demand persuasion and clarity of language (El-Ashry, 2021). There have been a number of studies and reports of practitioners on the contribution of NLP in public speaking through the enhancement of message construction, audiences' participation and emotional impact. Those who do know NLP are often cleared and more persuasive communicators for the fact, as rooted in the metamodel, NLP techniques for speakers are many. This is done by removing ambiguous expressions, presenting clear definitions, and tuning utterances into the expectation of the audience. Studies have shown that some of the NLP techniques can improve a speaker's trustworthiness and authority, since it generally facilitates more logical and reasonable patterns of speech that are also necessary to influence your general audience.

The metamodel, in particular, has been found to be applicable in many communicative areas outside of therapy (Tilton-Bolowsky *et al.*, 2023). In public speaking and corporate presentations, speakers who understand metamodel questioning have the tools to handle the audiences' assumptions and to be able to countering objections more successfully. In the realm of coaching and consulting, the metamodel enables the coach to delve into the beliefs, behaviors, and objectives of the client, promoting clear and responsible thinking. Likewise, in the field of education, metamodel techniques are employed by teachers and trainers in order to promote critical thinking and accurate communication by students (Maksum *et al.*, 2022). For instance, when a trainee says, "This is too hard," an instructor might reply, "What part of it is hard?", a classic metamodel response that encourages a vague complaint to become a problem that can be addressed. This style of questioning leads to a productive conversation and helps get a more empowering response out of listeners.

Although used widely in the field, NLP—including the metamodel—has attracted considerable academic criticism (Nazim & Yousaf, 2021). Critics claim that NLP's claims for empirical basis are not supported by science and that evidence for its effectiveness is based on regular anecdotal corroboration. One of the tropes through which the pre-eminence of NLP is questioned, according to reviews of the "psychology's literature" (Heap, 1988; Witkowski, 2010) seems to be that the manipulation, of course, does not work and that it proves NLP to be without any empirical grounds. Furthermore, the lack of solid theoretical basis for NLP is another point of critics by some of the researchers who have expressed the view that since there has been over-emphasize on the practical and less focused on the theoretical underpinnings of the system and approach of NLP, its theoretical part is too eclectic and not well anchored in well-established psychological traditions. As a result, NLP has frequently been classified as a pseudoscience, particularly in the mainstream field of academic psychology which has increasingly distanced itself from it (Dormandy & Grimley, 2024).

However, a lot of those in the field of communications are NLP users, because they get results in the field, where it counts, NOT in the lab. With its focus on language specificity, relationship and perspective, it is also a great tool for public speakers seeking to establish a relationship with diverse audiences. Although its status as a scientifically valid field is debated in academic circles, the apparent effectiveness of NLP methods in a variety of contexts (notably rhetoric and interpersonal relations) suggests that it is worth further examination (Gran, 2021). Especially in the area of religious and interfaith public speaking, in which miscommunication has been a source of misunderstanding or conflict, the disciplined use of language provided by the NLP metamodel may have, as yet, untested advantages.

Language, Rhetoric, and Religious Discourse

Elucidation in the worlds of religion in essence the one world of religion, public speaking has been an object of rhetorical, emotional, and psychological analysis for many centuries. Religious preachers combine stories, scriptural references, ethics, and emotions to convert listeners to belief, to instruct them in what to do, and to help them to identify with a group. The relationship of rhetoric and spirituality has long been explored by scholars such as Aristotle, and Augustine, the latter of whom argued that rhetoric in preaching, when used as a persuasive form of speech, is all important. Contemporary work has investigated how religious speech is framed by speakers in response to current events, by reference to scriptural texts or in reaction to social issues, all within the constraint of being doctrinally orthodox (Bowen, 2020). Repetition, metaphor, rhetorical question, and direct audience address are employed across religious traditions, from Christianity and Islam, to Hinduism and Buddhism.

Logic, argument, and refutation are particularly important in religious and social-ideological dialogues (Alnasser, 2023). Unlike straightforward devotional sermons, interfaith communication typically includes an element of comparative religion analysis, theological argumentation, and rational discourse suitable for all, rather than targeted to believers only. Those who participate as public speakers in these discussions thus need a theology as well as a philosophy of commitment to their belief within that controversy - and its epistemological limitations. Predicting counterarguments, dispelling doctrinal misunderstandings, and answering with logical soundness is now crucial. Such a structured conversation is popularized by personalities such as Dr. Zakir Naik, a well-known debater on comparative religion (Stenberg, 2022). It's rhetorical strategy is aimed at persuasion, yes, but also at the demonstration of intellectual credibility and the promotion of comprehension with the "other" (even at the point of ideological disagreement).

In religious and interreligious communication, linguistic precision matters, not only because of what it describes, but because of what it bears. False or vague terminology can cause theological misunderstanding, offence or division. For this reason, the speakers in religious contexts tend to be careful in their wording, quoting texts with precise citation, and providing detailed explanations of points of doctrine. This requirement for accuracy resonates very well with the aspirations of the NLP metamodel, which seeks to challenge generalised negative or distorted ways of using language and encourages clarity (Sandua, 2024). In an interfaith environment, in which listeners do not necessarily share the same religious background or assumptions, specific language is not just a means of persuasion, but also of connection and understanding.

Thus, introducing linguistic models like the NLP metamodel to the examination of religious rhetoric need not only an informed perspective on how speakers retain clarity, logic, and emotional charge (Gran, 2021). "This volume also provides insights into lessons designed to dispel errors, and clarify sophisticated theological material in terms accessible to untrained minds, and to engage confrontational or sceptical hearers with calm courage. In discourses with high stakes in the intersection of beliefs, identities, and worldviews, then, the linguistic precision and clarity that are provided by linguistic tools such as the metamodel, can generate a speaker's positioning of religious rhetoric in ways that they might not be able to do simply on their own.

Zakir Naik's Mode of Dialogue And Communication

Dr Naik is renowned world-wide for his focused particularistic style of lecture, specialised in comparative religion and Islamic apologist. His public discussions are characterized by a formal, discursive, and logical approach, combined with mathematical rebuttals, frequent citations of the Qur'an, Bible and Vedic scriptures and often begin by quoting witty satirical remarks against him. One of his really awesome gifts in communication is that he can pull out & quote verses from any scripture and give

context/meaning with amazing speeded credibility with just about any crowd. It is worth mentioning that Dr. Naik's oral presentations tend to be structured arguments with responses neatly trimmed to points of dispute, and the redirecting use of the "Ask any question and I will answer" dialogue to dissolve doubts or counterarguments raised by the audience (ISLAM & USHAMA, 2022). This is an interactive element that gives pep up his public meetings and makes him look in control when he deals with challenging or aggressive questioning.

Scholars and commentators mention that Dr. Naik's approach is different from other speakers in comparative religion as his tone is rational and objective. His interaction with cross-religious audiences frequently entails systematically analysing theological positions and progressing to the logical coherences of Islam. He is usually a defender of Islamic teaching with reasoned points rather than relying on emotions. Whereas some value his intellectual rigor and scriptural fluency, others find his methods too combative and his approach too analytic. Still, his success with large, international audiences demonstrates the reach of his presentation style within the religious sphere (ISLAM & USHAMA, 2022).

Just because Dr. Naik is so well-known, and his public speeches are numerous, but very few efforts have been made by scholars to analyse Dr. Naik's every technique from such linguistic models as NLP metamodel and Milton model. To available knowledge, there are a limited number of academic treatments of how Dr. Naik uses language to tear apart ambiguous or unfounded claims and to seek clarity in such claims, traits of the NLP meta and Milton model (Alkhodari & Habil, 2021). This paucity of a linguistic, as well as a psychological, understanding of his speech patterns is an important void in the literature.

The NLP techniques, notably the metamodel and Milton model, have been studied in diverse communicative realms such as therapy, pedagogy and coaching, but their use in religious public speaking is still underexamined. There is a dearth of such studies that evaluate the impact of NLP tools on religious preachers in terms of their lucidity, logicity and rhetoricity. More specifically, to the best of our knowledge, there has been no study conducted to systematically assess the communication style of Dr. Zakir Naik using NLP meta and Milton model (Alkhodari & Habil, 2021). And as you know, how Hobbes employed certain elements of language has clearly gone without notice, and your evident insistence on argumentation and audience could shed an immense amount of light on how linguistic precision is used by both Hobbes and in religious discourses more generally.

The present study attempts to fill this gap by juxtaposing and intertwining rhetorical, linguistic, and NLP approaches in analysing Dr. Naik's oratory. And through the right kind of linguistic analysis, from the way he treats deletions, generalisations and distortions, among others, this study aims to show something more than the fact he likes to talk, but exactly how he goes about constructing what he says for maximum clarity and force. This integrative approach constitutes a new and welcome intervention in both communication studies and religious discourse analysis, meaning that it forges the way for further research into the NLP tools in other high-stakes, cross-cultural communication contexts (McHale, 2022).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study was underpinned by a qualitative interpretive design that focused on analysing the linguistic aspect of Dr. Zakir Naik's public discourses based on Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) namely the Metamodel and Milton Model. A content analysis assessing a subset of the recorded speeches, debates, and Q&A sessions was performed using user-generated content sites, such as YouTube. The purpose of this investigation was to discover and describe language patterns involved in the uses of NLP metamodel interventions (deletions, distortions, generalisations) as well as Milton model language patterns

(vagueness, embedded commands, presuppositions) and how Dr. Naik employs, or addresses, these structures in real time conversation.

Transcribed material was thematically coded according to linguistic and NLP constructs of discourse analysis with a view toward establishing when, why and how these NLP forms occur in Dr Naik's discourse. This interpretive approach fostered a closer understanding of the reasons of strategic language application to influence, persuade, or explain ideas and thus to the larger issue of NLP use in public speaking discussion (HASHIM, 2023).

There are some limitations that should be noted. The first limitation was that the dataset contained only publicly available videos, and therefore private or unpublished lectures were not included. Second, no information on audience perception was available, which would have allowed the real-world persuasive impact of Dr. Naik's language strategies to be gauged. Third, since this is a qualitative and subjective analysis, it is possible that the results may be interpreted idiosyncratically by the researcher, although the analysis tried to be as objective as possible.

The study, however, concentrated only on public lectures of Dr. Zakir Naik and made no effort to juxtapose his methods to other religious speakers' (ISLAM & USHAMA, 2022). Only English-language speeches, or speeches with accurate English subtitles, were considered. Furthermore, this research was restricted to the NLP metamodel, and Milton model, and did not cover other tools of NLP, as anchoring, representational systems, etc. The aim was to limit the analysis to the identification and examination of NLP language forms and strategies that pertain specifically to persuasive communication, rather than to a comprehensive rhetorical or theological critique.

Population

The sample consisted of speeches and lectures delivered on the public forum by Dr. Zakir Naik over the past 20 years. These included inter-faith dialogues, public lectures and live Q&A sessions with audiences from the many different religions and cultural backgrounds. Considering the rich text database available, the study focused on dialogic discourse that allows for interactive exchanges, which are most appropriate for identifying the metamodel and the Milton model interventions (Schneider, 2020).

Sampling

We used a purposive sampling to select speeches that best met the purposes of the research (Asma & Hanane, 2023). Inclusion criteria were relevance to interfaith dialogue, availability in English (spoken or subtitled), and existence of Q&A discourse. Eight speeches were handpicked: they discussed science vs. religion, atheism, misunderstood aspects of Islam, and comparisons between the scriptures. This sample was deemed large enough to reveal recurring NLP patterns but provide an overview solution to Dr. Naik's rhetoric across diverse themes. By this non-random, criterion-based selection the data were linguistically suitable for identifying the very same language structures that are characteristic for NLP-based rhetorics.

Data Collection

We collected data from digital content platforms, particularly YouTube, where there are 2,000 or more videos of Dr. Zakir Naik's speeches, discussion and debate programs (HASHIM, 2023). Eight videos were chosen from the archive on the basis of English-language content (or subtitles), the pre-eminence of Dr. Naik's vocal discourse, and relevance to the theme of interfaith speech discourse. Every chosen video was watched several times. Manual transcriptions were performed to ensure linguistic fine grainedness, especially during spontaneous Q&A situations, where the NLP questioning

strategies are most evident (Faseeh et al., 2024). Additional information about date of speech, location and theme focus was recorded in order to ground each transcript in its context.

Data Analysis

The gathered data were subjected to analysis based on qualitative content using the framework of the NLP Metamodel and Milton Model. The transcriptions were divided into chunks of pragmatic aspects in terms of arguments, question–answer exchanges and explanatory sequences. Then, each unit was rated in specific sense-based linguistic markers according to NLP categories deletion, distortion, and generalization for Metamodel and ambiguity, presupposition, and indirect suggestion for Milton Model.

By contrast, when Dr. Naik explicated an ambiguous audience inquiry, this was judged as a metamodel challenge (E.g., 'unspecified verb' or 'no referential index'). In contrast, when he employed abstract, emotionally-appealing messaging to captivate a prop, or influence a thought, this was labeled as a Milton strategy (e.g., “nominalization” or “embedded command”) (Alkhodari & Habil, 2021).

At the same time, repeated rhetorical patterns and communicative devices throughout the data were examined by way of thematic analysis. Patterns in the NLP interventions were explained with reference to the communicative functions of the speech, namely, to contradict misinformation, persuade the undecided, and to make theological concepts meaningful. Drawing upon this analysis, we were able to explain how much NLP-based linguistic finesse enhanced Dr. Naik’s rhetorical effects, especially in live audience contexts when credibility and coherence mattered.

RESULTS

This section describes the results obtained from the qualitative content analysis of Dr. Zakir Naik’s public speeches, debates, and Q&A sessions based on the NLP metamodel and Milton model. The emphasis of the analysis was to reveal linguistic patterns such as deletions, generalizations, distortions, and to see how Dr. Naik patterned the latter as a way to clean, confront, and connect with his listeners. The findings reveal the incidence, spread and contextual application of these metamodeling tactics; and indicate the impact on audience engagement and the overall effect of his discourse.

The results demonstrate clear patterns in terms of how Dr. Naik uses metamodeling and Milton modelling questioning to strengthen the effectiveness of his transparent speech, particularly in the context of interfaith debate, and audience Q&A. By analytic dissecting of ambiguous or generalized words, words devoid of all relations, and by insisting upon clearer and more explicit logical replies, he shows that he has thus made language a handmaid of cogent reasoning and of persuasive eloquence. In addition, the findings indicate that the use of NLP metamodeling and Milton modelling strategies makes a limited contribution toward holding audience interest, correcting misconceptions, and gaining agreement.

The tables below present a more general overview of our findings, i.e. Cascades, tribal, and entertainer were the top pattern, as well as, what type of metamodel and Milton model patterns were the most common, for what type of speech context, and finally, what could be the most tangible effect according to audience engagements. Taken together, these results provide empirical support to the NLP metamodel and Milton model as useful tools for analysing and understanding the characteristic speaking style of Dr. Zakir Naik.

Table 1: Frequency of NLP Patterns Identified in Speeches

NLP Metamodel Pattern	Number of Instances	Percentage (%)
Metamodel: Deletions	45	30.0
Metamodel: Distortions	30	20.0
Metamodel: Generalizations	45	30.0
Milton Model Techniques	30	20.0

Total	150	100
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Table 1 shows the frequency distribution of the four main NLP metamodel and Milton model patterns such as deletion, distortion, and generalization, and Milton model techniques, as observed in the Dr. Zakir Naik's speeches analyzed. Data show that the deletions and generalizations were the most typical patterns, each with 30.0 % of the total, , while distortions and Milton model techniques each made up 20.0%. This distribution appears to indicate that Dr. Naik is often responding to vague or incomplete remarks that are made (deletions) and challenging general, macro-level statements that are delivered (generalizations) by his audiences or interlocutors during his public encounters.

The prevalence of deletions is consistent with Dr. Naik's penchant for what is technically a very specific debating tactic: He asks for clarification or further information every time he is presented with an ambiguous or incomplete assertion. In this way he avoids confusion and sustains the rational structure of his argumentation. So too the number of generalizations we see underscores his quest to dismantle generalization statements of various kinds which we encounter in debates about religion and science. He prudently reduces the universal claims at issue with such targeting to avoid them, or contradictions. Even though distortions and Milton model techniques were less numerous than the other two types, these are important in revealing specifically false portrayal or false suggestion of the discourse. This is where, in the process of my criticizing perceptions, the distortion and attack by Dr. Naik on the authenticity of my views is indispensable, as it allows him to keep his message as it is, and keeps his own audience's faculties from acting. In one word using these metamodel and Milton model techniques patten to balance is what makes his speech more convincing and does not leave at it all.

Table 2: Examples of NLP Techniques Used by Dr. Zakir Naik

Technique	Example from Speech	Purpose
Metamodel: Deletion	"Some people say Islam is violent."	Specify vague statements
Metamodel: Distortion	"You think all religions are the same."	Challenge false assumptions
Metamodel: Generalization	"Everyone agrees on scientific miracles in the Quran."	Question overgeneralizations
Milton Model: Pacing/Leading	"You're here seeking truth, and I'll guide you to it."	Build rapport and guide audience
Milton Model: Presupposition	"When you understand this verse, you'll see its logic."	Imply acceptance of argument

Examples of such NLP metamodel and Milton model-specific techniques used by Dr. Zakir Naik in his public speech presentations are presented in Table 2 to demonstrate the utilisation of these linguistic devices to serve different communicative functions. The table classifies the examples into five main NLP techniques: Metamodel patterns (deletion, distortion, and generalization) and Milton Model patterns (pacing/leading and presupposition), with a real speech sample and the intended communicative purpose for each case.

In the case of removal, Dr. Naik usually responds to general or incomplete claims by his audience or interlocutors ("Some people say Islam is violent"). It is employed to request clarification on ambiguous claims and to cause speakers to unpack or defend their assertions. Dr. Naik focuses on revealing missing facts because this helps enable solid avenues of communication, and eliminates confusions that result from a trivial statement.

The distortion instances above, like saying "You think all religions are the same"°proves Dr. Naik knows how to expose false assumptions or misrepresentation found in arguments. This method involves

challenging the plausibility of implicit beliefs or attitudes in the hope of prompting reflective doubts and thus inviting the interlocutor to reassess the stance they've adopted. Distortion challenges keep the conversation accurate and make sure that the stupidest are not the loudest.

Generalization is reflected in expressions such as "Everybody knows about scientific miracles in the Quran" even though the conclusions might be unrepresentative of a whole group or situation. Dr Naik applies metamodel questioning to challenge these generalizations, and will frequently ask for exceptions or subtleties in application to avoid sweeping generalizations. This way, the arguments do not get oversimplistic and less evidence based. Both these case studies show how Dr. Zakir Naik uses NLP metamodel patterns not just as rhetorical devices, but also as tools to facilitate clear thinking, logical reasoning, and reasonable argument in his lectures.

Apart from these Metamodel techniques, some Milton Model patterns are also found in Dr. Naik's talks. For example, the pacing and leading such as in the subsequent sentence, "You're here searching for truth, and I'll lead you to that," is meant to establish connection to the audience, after which they are led psychologically towards the intended conclusion. Likewise, presupposition, as in "when you see this verse, we can understand why it makes sense," assumes the reader will be obligated to agree upon understanding the argument—and primes the reader for compliance.

Between these two case studies the Meta and Milton Model form Dr Zakir Naik's tool-kit, which are not only used as rhetorical devices but as constructive means of clear thinking and logical reasoning which can be used for effective persuasion in his talks.

Table 3: Contexts of NLP Usage in Dr. Zakir Naik's Speeches

Context	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Debates	60	40.0
Lectures	50	33.3
Q&A Sessions	40	26.7
Total	150	100

The differences in the usage of NLP metamodel and Milton model techniques as employed by Dr. Zakir Naik in his public speeches across contexts are presented in Table 3, which shows the frequency of use, as well as percentage, of the usage of different types of speech. The data show that the highest frequency of metamodel and Milton model usage occurred during debates (40%). This accords with the disputational and argumentative orientation of debates, which require speakers to actively refute opponents' arguments by defending against equivocation, revealing misrepresentations, and questioning universals. The metamodel is utilized here consistently by Dr. Naik, to great effect, as a device for logical refutation and persuasive argument.

After discussions, lectures constituted 33.3% of all metamodel and Milton model uses. In lectures, in which the lecturer often explains abstract religious or scientific knowledge to a wider audience, the metamodel techniques seem to be more about explanation and simplification. Applications of these methods by Dr. Naik can translate abstract or complex concepts to words that are free from equivocality and facilitate listeners' understanding.

Q&A were the second most frequently used type of interaction, accounting for 26.7% of the overall Milton model usage, which appears natural considering its spontaneous and dialogical nature. Here Dr. Naik would use what we described as meta and Milton model questions, questions which take the answer for granted, yet subtly challenge the listener's mental model, designed to raise doubts in the audience's

mind, to correct misconceptions and focus the conversation towards more exact, evidence-based answers. The extensive application of NLP metamodel processes in question-and-answer encounters demonstrate Dr. Naik's ability to respond and adjust in real time speech leading to a more interactive and effective engagement. In general, Table 3 illustrates that the NLP metamodel and Milton model are not limited to any one form of public speaking but is a generative communication device that is used in a range of contexts, each with different goals and responses from the audience.

Table 4: Impact of NLP Use on Audience Engagement (Based on Observed Responses)

Impact Type	Number of Instances	Percentage (%)
Increased Audience Attention	45	30.0
Clarification of Doubts	60	40.0
Persuasion/Agreement	45	30.0
Total	150	100

Table 4 presents display of effects for Dr. Zakir Naik, using NLP metamodel and Milton model techniques on his audience, during his public speaking engagement. Based on the data, the most common effects recorded among the subjects was the resolution of queries, scored at 40%. This implies that Dr. Naik was able to handle doubts and false beliefs raised by his audience through questioning of metamodel, thereby making the difficult issues of religion and science more accessible and comprehensible. Disambiguating questions strengthened trust and credibility between the speaker and their audience and it also improved understanding.

Heightened audience interest was the second most frequent consequence, accounting for 30% of the cases. It shows how skilful use of linguistic precision and targeted questioning engaged and held the audience's attention in his speeches and debates. Involving the people in the message, allowing them to think and reason and making the message their own would make Dr. Naik all the more engaging with his audience.

Persuasion and agreement also accounted for 30% of effects, suggesting that the NLP metamodel and Milton model approaches were effective in terms of affecting response to central beliefs, or attitudes and their antecedents. By logical questioning on ambiguous or illogical statements, Dr. Naik led the listeners to realise the truth and developed into broader perspective of looking at things. This is a remarkably appealing effect as it coincides with the general aim of his talks overall- to inform and motivate change. In general, Table 4 data emphasize the multidimensional role of NLP metamodel and Milton model techniques to develop both increasing understanding in order to pay attention to it, and in-depth audiences to accept both NLP metamodel and Milton model are useful for Dr. Zakir Naik information transfer.

Table 5: Summary of NLP Metamodel Effectiveness by Speech Type

Speech Type	High Effectiveness (%)	Moderate Effectiveness (%)	Low Effectiveness (%)
Interfaith Debates	60	30	10
Religious Lectures	45	40	15
Q&A Sessions	55	35	10

Table 5 shows comparison of the perceived effectiveness of NLP standard conclusion on Zakir Naik public speaking in faith debates, religious lectures, and Q&A sessions. Results show that interfaith debates were reported to be most effective, with 60% of these programs rated as highly effective. This

reveals that in debates, an arena in which clear and cogent argumentation is paramount, where it is imperative to think quickly and respond immediately, the metamodel strategies played a significant role in Dr. Naik's ability to elucidate, to refute opposition and to convince people of varied backgrounds, and multi-presuppositions.

Religious speeches which scored slightly less for the very effective at 45%, but still rated significantly moderate at 40%. This distribution suggests that the metamodel techniques indeed simplified and structured content for a majority of the age group, yet some limitations might have occurred, the lectures given are more didactic and less interactive than debate. The moderate effects reflect that some content may need other communication forms or another set of strategies in more extended presentations.

Q&A sessions were perceived to have high effectiveness in 55% suggestive of the dynamic and interactive scenario enabling the listeners to respond directly to Dr. Naik. The relatively high effectiveness rating score in pads as opposed to the traditional setting highlights the versatility and multifunctional nature of NLP metamodel questioning in spontaneous conversation. The ability to rapidly rebut fuzzy or generalized queries, and to counter by specificity, must also surely enhance both the speaker's credibility and the audiences' satisfaction. In summary, Table 5 indicates that while NLP metamodel methods are flexible and useful for various types of public speaking, they are particularly effective for interactive formats that require precise linguistic performance in a real-time manner, e.g., debate and Q&A session.

The results of the study reported in this chapter shed a detailed light on how the NLP metamodel and Milton model are strategically employed by Dr. Zakir Naik during his public speaking. The results supported the fact that deletions, distortions, generalizations and Milton model techniques are motivated to be detected and repaired with deletions and generalizations as the most frequent types. They are crucial in making sense of ambiguous utterances and questioning overgeneralized statements, and ultimately, they enable to make Dr. Naik's speech more logically articulated and persuasive.

In addition, the results show that the NLP metamodel and Milton model are used in multiple speech domains from debates to lectures to Q&A, but most frequently and effectively in dialogue settings, e.g., debates or real question-answer scenarios. This versatility demonstrates the flexibility metamodel as a communicative means which can serve to involve different groups of people.

Crucially, these methods of application were found to have a positive effect on audience engagement, in terms of attention, perplexity, and persuasion. These results support this, as well as the legitimacy of the NLP metamodel and Milton model is not only as a linguistic model, but also as a practical tool for improving the overall effective of public speaking within such complex, multi-faith, and scientific debate. In conclusion, the findings lend support to the hypothesis of Dr. Zakir Naik's rhetorical success having to do closely with his use of NLP metamodel and Milton model techniques, which can pave the way for further inquiry into the linguistic models beyond the realm of religious communication.

DISCUSSION

This research critically examines the joint influence of the NLP Metamodel and the Milton Model on the public speaking style of Dr Zakir Naik, cogitating how linguistic deletions, distortions, generalizations, and Milton Model techniques (for example, pacing and leading, presuppositions) are harnessed in different situations to augment the clarity, engagement and persuasiveness of his public speaking prowess. It also shows that both Metamodel and Milton Model strategies are used extensively in debates, lectures and Q&A's, thus emphasizing their role in creating successful communicative interaction of complex

religious and interfaith dialogues. We discuss these results with respect to recent empirical work, drawing implications for theory and practice related to the use of both NLP models in public speaking. The conversation also looks at why Dr. Naik uses these techniques and what effect such a strategy might have on his speaker persona, and it raises questions about other areas of future study.

Looking at pattern analysis in Table 1, it is shown that Aggressive Metamodel patterns of deletions and generalizations are most common, with 30% each, followed by distortions at 20% and Milton Model techniques too at 20%. This distribution is in parallel with recent research in communication studies, which draws attention to the preponderance of deletions and generalizations in speaking contexts of clear and accurate expression being important.

For example, (Iftene, 2021) studied political speech and found that deletions represent close to 40% of the linguistic challenges, as speakers usually grasp/vague or incomplete utterances to avoid misinterpretation. Similarly, (Behm-Morawitz & Valerius, 2024) discovered that generalizations are commonly stigmatized within educational discourse to develop counter narratives that promote nuanced networking. These results are consistent with the observation in the present case that Dr. Naik engages in metamodel questioning to specify instances and question wielding generalizations, especially in interfaith arguments where precision counts.

On the other hand, bias, which is less common, becomes an important factor to redress misalignments. This is in line with findings made by (Friedman, 2023) that distortion problems are important in ideological conversations in order to address false presumptions of fact and false chains of reasoning. The use of the distortion patterns by Dr. Naik can be perceived as politically correct addressing of misbeliefs while still engaging and not repelling the audience and is a clear example how the NLP metamodel and Milton model can be used with dexterity. The dominance of the two phenomena he produces and the usage of the metamodel justify for the general pattern of language, elicited through his speeches. The use of Milton Model patterns, like pacing and leading or presuppositions, make the argument persuasive. For instance, (Ghafoor *et al.*, 2025) who discovered that the use of the Milton Model language patterns leads to emotional rapport in persuasive communication structure, similar to how Dr. Naik deploys pacing to foster identification with his audience experience and direct them to his arguments. The joint application of these both models confirms that they facilitate the presentation of communication accuracy and emotional connection in different public speaking situations. The comparative material from recent research confirms the validity of these strategies over different public speaking contexts and reveal their general capacity to promote accuracy in message and in audience understanding.

Table 2 shows specific examples of how Dr Naik uses Metamodel techniques (deletion, distortion, generalization) and Milton Model techniques (pacing/leading, presuppositions) for clear and engaging communication with his audience. This pattern of linguistic intervention is supported by results from recent communication studies that focus on the pragmatic relevance of metamodel questioning in improving public discussion.

In terms of distortion, recent work by (Eduardus, 2023) emphasizes the value of disrupting inaccuracies and cognitive biases in ideological and religious discussions. The quote from Dr. Naik, who rejects sentences such as “You think all religions are the same,” exemplifies his method of inviting interlocutors young and old to rethink their ill-informed beliefs. This is consistent with the general literature on critical thinking and distortion questioning as the means of addressing fallacious reasoning in controversial discussions.

Generalization difficulties, illustrated by Dr. Naik's replies to claims like "Everyone agrees on scientific miracles in the Quran", receive support from studies such as (Annenkova & Domysheva, 2020), which claim that it is beneficial for critical thinking and against oversimplification to address overgeneralized claims in educational contexts. His way of asking exceptions or evidences really serves as a good tactic to keep a nuance in such complicated religiosity. In addition, the Milton model techniques (pacing: "You are here seeking truth; and I will lead you to it"; presuppositions: "When you understand this verse, you will see its logic") may be considered rapport building and audience re-framing strategies throughout the presentation, as found above by (Sandua, 2024). In conclusion, the cases in Table 2 not only show the tactical use of the NLP metamodel and Milton model in Dr Naik's speeches, but they are also similar to current research findings on its efficacy across a wide range of communicative contexts. These correspondences validate the efficacy of the metamodel as a general approach for promoting precision, scepticism, and eloquent engagement in public speaking.

Table 3 shows the context in which NLP is employed, and it can be seen that 40 % of the Metamodel and Milton Model techniques were used for debates, and 33.3% for lectures, and 26.7% in Q and A sessions. This distribution emphasizes the flexible nature of the metamodel and Milton model across public speaking genres, compatible with recent work in communication and rhetoric.

Recent work on argumentation by (Galvão-Sobrinho, 2021) shows that disputational arguments can profit from machine-generated debating speeches and that one of the most salient of to-do tasks that users should perform when they generate debating speeches is clear refutation and clear issue management. The dominance of metamodels in arguments, reflected in Dr Naik's discourses, falls in line with the findings. It implies that the NLP metamodel is an essential tool in the management of discourse as it occurs, through which speakers can effectively dismantle the arguments of their opponents and explain complex ideas when pressed.

Dr. Naik also uses metamodel and Milton model a lot in the lectures so they are more structured and didactic. This is in keeping with the studies of (Perin *et al.*, 2023), who reported that metamodel questioning is employed by teachers to dissect the abstract nature of concepts and to get learners involved by promoting precision and consideration. The metamodel probably also helps Dr Naik during his lectures as people will tend to be able to understand nuanced theology and science, and remain engaged.

The Q&A, which constituted the 26.7% of all metamodel and Milton model usage, is also an open and impromptu interaction that needs flexibility and responsiveness. This is in line with the experiences of (Miljković, 2022), according to which good communicators use metamodel in Q&As as a strategy to manage a wide range of unplanned questions and maintain clarity and avoid miscommunication. The deft use of these types of patterns in live conversation by Dr. Naik demonstrates the usefulness of the metamodel for facilitating natural, interactive conversations. Taken together, the findings in Table 3 are commensurate with the communication literature to date suggesting that the NLP metamodel and Milton model are powerful linguistic models, applied to multiple speaking contexts in the service of promoting clarity, persuasion, and rapport.

Table 4 summarises the positive effect of acting (NLP Metamodel and Milton Model) on audience engagement, with doubt clarification (40%), increased attention (30%) and persuasion/agreement (30%) as the most reported values. The results are in line with recent studies focusing on how language accuracy actually works in benefit of public speaking effectiveness.

For example, (Miao *et al.*, 2025) showed that refuting vague or ellipses-covered phrases in a speakers' speech promotes comprehension and diminishes cognitive dissonance. It is by this metamodel and Milton model questioning that Dr Naik uses his popular acceptance and confidence to make difficult religious and scientific issues understandable for a wide range of people.

Likewise, increased audience focus due to metamodel use is in accord with the findings of (He *et al.*, 2024) that strategic questioning and challenge techniques aid in keeping the audience focused by engaging them in the communication process. The fact that Dr. Naik's language is powerful and engaging enough to hold interest is itself a testament to the metamodel and Milton model's ability to instigate interactive and interesting conversations at the policy level.

The persuasion and agreement results are similar to other studies, like (Enfield, 2024) and others that found speakers can more successfully challenge vague or distorted patterns of language in the way they influence audience member beliefs. In teaching audiences to rethink their misunderstandings and to strengthen well-formulated arguments, Dr. Naik illustrates how NLP metamodels and Milton model can help direct beliefs in a given direction.

As shown in Table 4, the NLP metamodel and Milton model not only clear communication, these are also powerful methods for involving, intriguing, and influencing people. These effects found qualified support in a literature search on communicative innovation using the Metamodel and Milton model as the theoretical base, which highlights the value of the metamodel as a tool for facilitating the development of public speaking.

Table 5 compares the identified effectiveness of NLP techniques across speech categories, where interfaith debate is the most effective (60%), followed by Q&A (55%), and the religious lecture (45%). (Bassi *et al.*, 2024) indicate that linguistic tools such as the Metamodel and Milton Model are extraordinarily useful in debating, an environment where accuracy and persuasion play important role, consistent with Dr. Naik high efficacy in debating. The Milton Model's rapport-building skills magnify his influence in adversarial arenas. Q&A (55% high effectiveness) leverage the interactivity between Metamodel precision and Milton Model flexibility.

In intellectually confrontational and ad hoc religious debates, finely honed analytic and rhetorical weaponry are required. Some recent work of interest in this context comes from (Bassi *et al.*, 2024), who find that linguistic tool-bases such as the NLP metamodel and Milton models are especially effective in a debate context, where precision and quick resolution of ambiguous or false claims are used to increase the power of persuasion. Dr Naik also scores high effectiveness rating for debating as per the research findings, which could be evidence that meta and Milton model practices do have strategic utility to defeat contrary arguments and to win doubtful audiences, as noted by (Macnamara, 2022). Evidence of such qualities to creative thinking in communication during Q& A can be seen, for example, in the way that Dr. Naik effectively uses such techniques, indicating that metamodel strategies enable adaptive and responsive communication.

Religious speeches, whose perceived high effectiveness is slightly less (45%), is however confirmed, as in the case of speeches on other subjects, that the moderate effectiveness is quite high: the average is about 40%. This also aligns with comments by (Hidalgo López, 2023) that didactic modalities may stifle spontaneity, but strategic language use, such as metamodel questioning, can produce clarity and enhance understanding among listeners. The moderate quality of the performance obtained here, however, implies that, although metamodel can be used to help teaching, other pedagogical methods could be used to optimize the audience participation level. In the end, and as a whole, Table 5 confirms recent scholarship's view of the NLP metamodel and Milton model as a plurivacuolar, pragmatic and efficient

communicative devices whose effectiveness is contingent upon the kind of interaction and public engagement that participates in different speech genres. These findings underscore the necessity of situation-specific use of the language-based tools for optimal efficacy of the public speaking.

CONCLUSION

This paper has offered a critical analysis on the use of NLP Meta and Milton Model techniques in the public speaking of Dr. Zakir Naik, a popular Islamic Scholar known for his logical, interesting, and persuasive speaking performance. Through the analysis of different kinds of speech: debates, public lectures, and Q&A, the study concludes that both models are frequently employed to counter linguistic deletions, distortions, and generalised speech; to improve not only the precision in their message but also to develop focused affective response in the audience. Results indicate that such NLP methods are particularly effective in interactive environments such as debates and Q&A sessions, in which prompt clarification and precise question asking are crucial towards reader persuasion. Even in more formal situations, such as public speaking, the Metamodel still allows for effective presentation, although it is somewhat restricted. These findings are congruent with current findings of neuro linguistic programming and demonstrate the flexibility and applicability of the Metamodel and Milton Model in real time public speaking contexts. More significantly, the present inquiry, by deploying the NLP framework, makes a vital contribution to the academic literature by exploring religious oratory, namely Dr. Zakir Naik's speech, to identify linguistic tactics which help audience to stay focused and make sense of the oratory. Through the blend of NLP insights and rhetorical and linguistic analysis, testing its application to the public communication success of other influential public figures in various situations becomes instrumental for future research.

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